



# RECYCLING NEWS

\* Fall 2004 \*



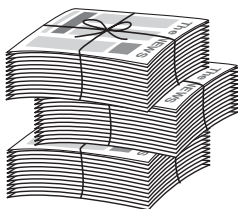
## Recycling - Back to the Basics

*Cynthia Moore, DNR, Recycling Team Leader*

Recycling has been a state requirement in Wisconsin since the passage of the Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery and Recycling Law in 1990. By 1995 over 1000 "Responsible Units", or "RU's" were running local programs. Those programs were, and continue to be, successful; about 1.4 million tons of recyclable materials are diverted from disposal each year.

One of the hallmarks of Wisconsin's recycling program is its consistency - recycling requirements under state law have been consistent over the past 10 years. However, with the normal influx of new residents and businesses into our state and the turn-over rates in staff and local governments, we have observed a gradual decline in awareness of the basic recycling requirements. We think it's time for a review of Wisconsin Recycling Basics.

To that end we are updating our web site to include a convenient overview of Wisconsin's Recycling rule and recycling requirements and encourage you to let us know if this provides you with information you need: (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/>). We will also be promoting "Back to the Basics" at public speaking opportunities and in our routine outreach to Responsible Units. Some very basic information on Wisconsin's Recycling Law is provided here in the next column.

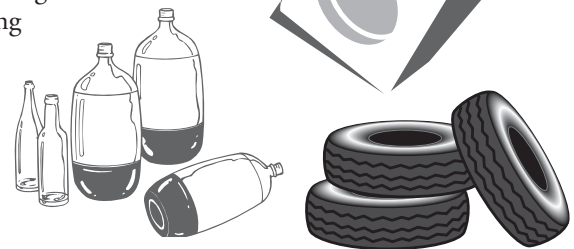


### What Materials Must be Recycled?

Wisconsin law prohibits the landfilling or incineration of specified materials as a means of encouraging their recycling or reducing their generation. Materials subject to the landfills/incineration bans are:

Lead acid batteries  
major appliances  
waste oil  
yard waste  
waste tires

containers: aluminum, glass,  
plastic and steel containers  
paper/fiber products: newspaper,  
corrugated cardboard, magazines



### Who is Responsible for Implementing and Enforcing Recycling Programs?

Responsibility to manage specific recyclables is delegated to Responsible Units. RU's that have a department approved "effective recycling program" may landfill incidental amounts of recyclable materials generated in their geographic area. Local recycling programs are implemented through a local ordinance specifying recycling requirements for local residents and at non-residential facilities. The local ordinance also includes a prohibition on disposing of the banned materials, and provisions for enforcement.

### Who Has to Recycle?

Wisconsin's Recycling requirements apply to everyone in the state, and at all locations. This includes institutions, public places, businesses, special events, homes and apartments. The responsibility to ensure that recycling opportunities are offered at all locations lies with the RU; RU's typically have had greater success in securing compliance with recycling in the residential sector than in the non-

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## Back to the Basics Continued

residential sector. This fact was confirmed by results from the Wisconsin statewide waste study, and has led to a campaign focusing on "Recycling Away from Home".

## How Well Has the State done?

Since 2000, the proportion of Wisconsin's solid waste stream that is diverted from landfills through recycling and composting has held steady at approximately 40 percent. On-site management of yard waste accounts for almost 6% of the total waste diverted from landfills.

## Benefits of Recycling

Recycling benefits Wisconsin's economy through the creation of new industries and business opportunities and well paying jobs. Waste diversion saves natural resources, contributes to improved air quality, and reduces the need for landfill expansion and construction by "saving" landfill space. We estimate Wisconsin's Recycling Program has made unnecessary the siting of 5 to 8 new landfills or expansions of existing landfills.

## What About the Future?

Wisconsin has a strong, successful residential recycling program. We are reminding local governments of the basic recycling requirements and providing some new web-based materials, a timely effort given staff turn-over and the influx of new residents. However, it is also clear that more effort will be needed to increase recycling in the non-residential sector and recycling away from home. As Americans as a whole generate progressively more waste, traditional methods of waste diversion- recycling, reusing and composting- need to be augmented by alternative approaches to waste reduction. ♻️



## DNR Recycling Updates

*Cynthia Moore, DNR, Recycling Team Leader*

### Revisions to Recycling Rules

The DNR is proposing revisions to administrative rules related to recycling. Most of the revisions impact NR 544, but some revisions are also made to sections of NR 500 and NR 502 relating to recycling facilities and services. The revisions

- 1) eliminate obsolete language and references;
- 2) confirm the original intent and scope of recycling requirements;
- 3) update provisions to reflect changes in recycling methods and technology; and
- 4) add language to ensure sound environmental management of all recycling facilities.

The Natural Resources Board authorized the holding of public hearings during the September Board meeting. Public hearings are scheduled for Monday, Nov 15, 2004, at 10AM, and will be held simultaneously through video-conferencing in Madison, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Spooner and Stevens Point. Time and room numbers will be listed on the DNR web site and public notices will be sent to newspaper across the state.

The rule package can be found on the state of Wisconsin Administrative Rule page at <https://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>, choosing DNR as the agency and then typing in the word "recycling". ♻️

## Green Schools Now Healthy Too.

*Joel Stone, DNR, Communication and Education*

In the last two issues of *Recycling News*, we told you about DNR's new Green Schools program. Since then, Green Schools has attracted the attention of the State Superintendent and her staff from the Department of Public Instruction who were interested in developing and promoting safe and healthy schools. They found that a lot of health and safety issues were closely related to environmental issues covered by Green Schools, and they asked if they could partner with us to promote "green" and "healthy" schools. We agreed that this was a natural fit and hence, *Green & Healthy Schools* was formed.

Though *Green & Healthy Schools* appears to be a new program, it is really a compilation of many DNR and DPI education initiatives linked to the Wisconsin's education standards. Hopefully, we have made it easier to implement this voluntary program by combining many existing environmental, health and safety initiatives in both



of our agencies and putting them on one web site for easy access and use.

*Green & Healthy Schools* now encourages school communities to work together to teach and promote healthy, safe, environmentally sound practices. It helps schools integrate a range of environmental concerns into their curriculum, including recycling, waste reduction, water quality, energy conservation, and healthy living.

As a Responsible Unit, you can help meet your effective program criteria for education by encouraging and helping schools in your community to become *Green & Healthy Schools*. For further information, visit our web site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/greenandhealthyschools/> or contact Christal Winter (608-264-8976; [christal.winter@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:christal.winter@dnr.state.wi.us)) ♻️

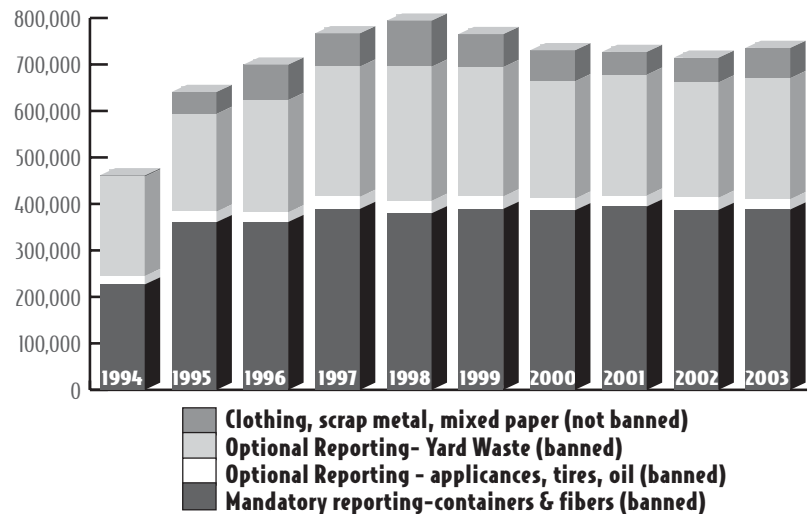
# Collection of Recyclable Materials by Wisconsin Responsible Units 1994-2003

Cynthia Moore, DNR, Recycling Team Leader

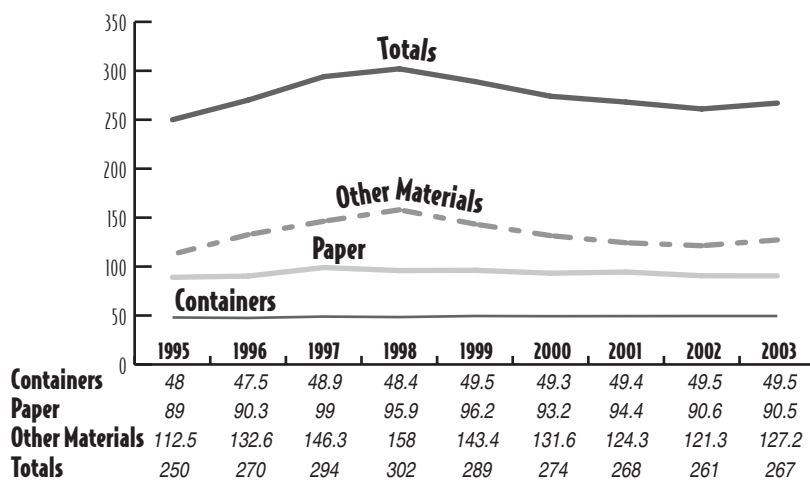
Responsible Units are required to report annually to the DNR on their recycling program, including the amounts of material collected. Data on waste diversion and collection of recyclable materials since 1997 are available on the Recycling Web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/recycleldfrept/index.html>.

We were pleased to note that the total amount of recyclable materials collected by Wisconsin Responsible Units reported for 2003 appears to reverse a slight downward trend we have observed since collections peaked in 1998.

Recyclable Materials Collected by Wisconsin Responsible Units (in tons)



Recyclable Materials Collected by Wisconsin Responsible Units (pounds per capita)



Looking at the data on a “per capita” basis (in this case, pounds per person per year) allows us to compare collection amounts over time, adjusting for population growth. The “per capita” collection in 2003 of fibers (newspaper, cardboard, magazines and office paper) and containers (glass, plastic, aluminum and steel/bimetal) are at about the same level as reported for 2002, while per capita collection of other recyclable materials showed a net increase in 2003 over 2002. ♻️



## Annual Reports from Responsible Units

### Electronic Reporting

Working closely with the UW SHWEC, we continue development of an on-line reporting facility for the annual reports required from all Responsible Units. Last spring, about 40 RUs volunteered to assist in a pilot project by entering their data in an on-line prototype. Response to our efforts was very positive, so we will again offer the on-line option. In 2005, we hope many more RUs will take advantage of

this on-line system and find it an easy, efficient way to submit reports.

#### Changes to the Annual Report:

There will be several notable changes to the 2004 Responsible Unit annual report:

- 1) Responsible Units have the option to report collection from multi-family residents and use this amount in calculating their “per

capita” collection amount to meet Table 1 standards. This change will provide the state with a more accurate portrayal of recycling efforts of local governments.

- 2) Information requested on the operation of local programs is streamlined.
- 3) RUs will not be required to list their haulers ♻️

# Use of Waste Wallboard for Crop Production Reaps Benefits for the Construction Industry

Kim McCutcheon, DNR, Construction and Demolition Industry Sector Specialist, Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance

Gypsum wallboard is used to cover interior walls of homes, offices and other buildings. Wallboard is generally composed of gypsum (calcium sulfate dihydrate), binders (starch-based glues) and a paper backing. Land application of crushed and sieved wallboard scrap is a value-added means of responsibly managing this construction debris. After more than 3 years of collaboration between WasteCap Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin Soil Science Department and others, the department has finalized procedures to efficiently respond to requests for this management technique.

The Department of Natural Resources has developed a set of best management practices for waste gypsum wallboard to be processed and beneficially re-used as agriculture soil conditioner and fertilizer.

“Wallboard” from new residential and commercial construction may be exempted from solid waste regulations to encourage recycling of this material. Currently, large quantities of this relatively clean high-value material are being disposed of in landfills. Instead of landfilling, processing and beneficially reusing this material results in:

- ✱ Lower construction and demolition costs
- ✱ More opportunities to extract further benefits from the material
- ✱ Using less landfill space, and
- ✱ Avoiding a potential health threat from the formation of hydrogen sulfide gas.

Farmers and wallboard recyclers can easily obtain an exemption to apply



waste wallboard gypsum to agriculture lands. The department needs a letter requesting a low hazard exemption (waste wallboard currently is not an exempt waste under department rules). The letter must contain your name/company name, address, contact person, phone number and an estimate of the amount of wallboard that you expect to use as a substitute for agricultural gypsum annually. An example letter may be found on DNR Publication WA-607-04 (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/demolition/wa-607-04.pdf>). This letter outlines the best management practices that the wallboard users agree to as part of the exempt use agreement. The department may add additional best management practices to the agreement if the practices are needed to protect public health and the environment. ♻️

## DNR Recycling Web Site Enhanced

Cynthia Moore, DNR, Recycling Team Leader

Looking for information on Wisconsin's recycling program? Trying to find a market for your recyclables? Need some education resources or technical assistance? It's all on the Web, on DNR's recycling web site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/>

Just about everything you need to know about recycling in Wisconsin can be found under the following headings:

- ✱ Recycling Quick Reference
- ✱ Recycling Law
- ✱ Recycling Contacts
- ✱ Local County Contacts
- ✱ Annual Recycling and Landfill Reports Recycling Studies
- ✱ Recycling Education
- ✱ Recycling Issues (special events recycling, single stream)
- ✱ Markets Directory and Prices
- ✱ Council on Recycling
- ✱ Grant Programs

The “Recycling Quick Reference” is the newest addition to our site. In talking with people throughout the state, we learned that people are interested in having easy access to recycling basics. This site offers answers to the “what”, “when” and “how” questions, such as:

- ✱ Material Banned from Disposal in Wisconsin
- ✱ Who Must Recycle?
- ✱ Who can tell me how and what to recycle?
- ✱ Local Government Responsibility (Responsible Units)
- ✱ Facts & Figures
- ✱ Clip Art
- ✱ Hierarchy for Managing Solid Waste
- ✱ Recycling Grants
- ✱ Recycling “Away from Home” Campaign

In the near future, we'll be adding a listing of responsible units and their phone numbers by county.

Other changes are possible so the site may look slightly different by the time you read this newsletter. The URL is: <http://dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle/reference.html>

We hope you find this to be a useful addition to our web page. If you have any questions or comments contact: Dan Fields, 608-266-5334 or [fieldddb@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:fieldddb@dnr.state.wi.us)

Take a few minutes and check out our web site. ♻️





# Council on Recycling Makes Recommendations on Managing Old Electronics

*John Reindl, Chair, Council on Recycling*

As one of our faster growing waste streams, the disposal of electronics waste raises concerns about the impact of heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, along with flame retardant and other chemicals. Leachate tests done on electronics show that many fail the toxic leachate test and thus, from non-residential sources, are required to be handled as hazardous waste and not disposed of in municipal waste landfills. In addition, there are many valuable resources in old electronics which can be recovered and put to productive use.

The Council on Recycling – which was established by the State Legislature to provide recommendations on the state's recycling programs – first became involved in the electronics issues in 2000, when it set up a task force to examine the topic. Members included recyclers, solid waste managers, university faculty, local government officials, and manufacturers and their organizations from outside the state's boundaries.

After 12 meetings over a 19 month period, the task force made a series of recommendations to the full Council, which adopted a six-point program in the fall of 2002, as follows:

1. Investigate the nature and scope of electronic waste in Wisconsin.
2. Support the National Electronic Product Stewardship Institute (NEPSI) process for a national solution.
3. Develop state procurement guidelines for the purchase of computers and other electronics.
4. Divert computers, computer peripherals and televisions from landfills in Wisconsin, with the financing of the system incorporated into the price of the product, and not incurred by local units of government or taxpayers.
5. Place a ban on landfilling computers, computer peripherals and

televisions in Wisconsin, phased in to allow for an educational process and infrastructure development.

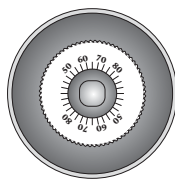
6. Establish a voluntary certification program for electronics processors and handlers. The DNR would only seek administrative rules to require certification if the objectives were not met.

In the spring of 2004, legislation on the management of electronics was introduced into the State Legislature as AB 877. At its March meeting, the Council heard from the author of the bill and was invited by the author to provide comments. This became the focus of the next three meetings of the Council, which finalized its comments at its September meeting.

Reaffirming its previous recommendations, the Council also suggests that the state require manufacturers to set up a third party organization (TPO) to handle the collection and recycling of electronics, similar to what has been done for rechargeable batteries and mercury thermostats in the US and electronics in Europe. All manufacturers who sell their products in Wisconsin would be required to join the TPO or establish equivalent programs.

The Council also recommended that the manufacturers/TPO be required to provide funding to the state for the oversight of the program and the manufacturers/TPO develop intensive and extensive education programs to both the household sector and the non-household sector on the requirements to keep electronic scrap out of landfills and on the opportunities for recycling.

It is expected that legislation on managing discarded electronics will be again introduced in the 2005-2006 Wisconsin Legislature and the Council will be working to have this issue move forward. ♻



## SHWEC Offers Assistance to Material Recycling Facilities

*Joe Van Rossum, UW-Extension, Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center*

During the summer of 2004 the Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center launched a Material Recycling Facility (MRF) Quality Improvement Program (QIP) to identify best practices in facility operation that can be applied to achieve greater efficiencies. The focus will be in three general categories, MRF Worker Safety, MRF Sorting Operations, and MRF Product Quality.

The program will utilize a three step sequence for each MRF choosing to participate. The initial step will be a pre-inspection survey to be completed by the MRF operators. This information will be used to prepare for a facility walk through and allow inspectors to become familiar with a particular MRF's operation. A facility walk-through or inspection will be conducted by SHWEC staff and/or other facility operators to identify areas that may be improved for each facility. The information gathered during the survey and walk-through will be used to prepare a final report. The report will contain recommendations the MRF can implement to improve its operation.

Contact the Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center for more details about this program. MRF operators wishing to participate in this program will be chosen on a "first come, first serve" basis.

## More About SHWEC

The University of Wisconsin Extension's Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) has been providing educational programs and technical assistance to Wisconsin communities and businesses since 1991. SHWEC staff are located on four UW Campus around the state; Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, and

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# Recycled Plastic Bags & Film Are Creating A Growing Market

*Jeff Fielkow, Director of Operations for Recycle America Alliance (RAA) Upper Midwest, and Vice Chair for The Council On Recycling for State of Wisconsin*

Choosing paper over plastic at the grocery checkout counter has been the preferred decision of environmentally aware consumers for many years. However, advanced technology has equalized the wisdom of that choice. Today, four out of five grocery bags are plastic, according to the Film & Bag Federation, and plastic, just like paper, has become an environmentally acceptable, convenient and viable choice for multiple reasons.

## New Technology Creates Markets & Demand

Plastic has lost its strong environmental threat because industry and consumers have been realizing, since the 1990s, that plastic bags and film are recyclable. Over the past five years, especially, new uses and evolving markets for recycled plastic film and bags have been growing with increasing speed and rigor. These markets, and their need for raw material, have developed at such a breakneck speed that there is a shortage of recyclable plastic bags and film to meet world demand.

Foreign markets, such as China, are demanding recycled plastic in increasingly greater quantities as its people continue to embrace the use of plastic products in their daily lives. Concurrently, a growing U.S. market of plastic construction material manufacturers is burgeoning as it discovers new residential and commercial applications for products spawned by evolving technologies.

Industry analysts say that Trex Company, Inc., the country's largest manufacturer of outdoor wood polymer lumber, can not get enough recycled plastic for its product line of decking and railing composed of recycled plastic and wood. Formerly a division of the Mobil Corporation, Trex is experiencing a high demand

for its low maintenance products. The company turns 300 million pounds of recycled plastic into decking each year. Most of its raw plastic material comes from recycled plastic grocery bags and reclaimed pallet wrap. The company estimates that it purchases about 50 percent of the recycled grocery bags available on the market today. Marathon Recovery, a division of Boise Cascade, buys recyclable plastic bags to make plastic products that replace wood along with a growing number of other manufacturers. Another application of recycled plastic is the slip sheet (spacer) that breweries, such as Coors Beer, uses between its cans. Approximately half of the nation's supermarkets, and a myriad of other retailers, now recycle plastic bags, while other large national retailers are switching to lightly colored plastic bags (rather than dark ones) because they are recyclable.

Plastic also is an important new tool in agriculture. Ontario's Ministry of Food and Agriculture tells us that recycled agricultural plastic film has a potential reuse in molded products such as landscape timber, fencing, farm pen planking, roadside posts, benches, picnic tables and pallets.

After the used plastic bags are recycled and shredded, they are pelletized and 'blown' into new plastic bags, industrial trash-can liners, plastic newspaper bags, disposable diapers, agricultural film, flower pots, drain pipes and more. Plastic recycling has become just as viable as paper recycling ever was.

The significance of recycling plastic bags and film is underscored by estimates showing that Americans use 14 billion shopping bags every year; about 425 bags for every American. The film is not only used in grocery sacks, but in trash and dry cleaning bags, shrink wrap, plastic wrap and many industrial packaging applications. According to Waste Age magazine, plastic film provides 38 percent of all plastic packaging.



It is interesting to note that the state of Wisconsin processes a tremendous amount of plastic film, which accounts for approximately 4 percent of the state's entire waste stream, or 4.7 million tons of plastic bags and film.

## Single Stream Recycling Is Instrumental To Meeting Demand

Growing demand for recycled plastic is being met again by more sophisticated and innovative technology. Companies like Recycle America Alliance (RAA) have developed recovery programs by investing in and implementing single stream recycling technology in its plants. At the recycling plant, recyclables are separated by commodity using a combination of mechanical and hand sorting. Another salient commercial benefit of single stream recycling is that commodities can be sorted, separated, and sold by grade – enhancing the recovery of plastic, in particular.

In summary, the demand for single stream plastic recycling has encouraged RAA to meet these needs and recover plastic as a commodity. Plastic mills and other manufacturers are clamoring for it. Demand has surpassed supply and RAA anticipates that the growth of this market will be sustainable well into the future. ♻️

# Chippewa County Schools Are Doing a Good Job Recycling. Are Yours?

By Chippewa County

Last year, the Chippewa County Recycling Program staff implemented a business assessment project which included schools. They evaluated 22 schools and three institutions (colleges and hospitals) in the County to find out how closely each was complying with the County's Recycling Ordinance.

They found that these Chippewa County schools and institutions were going a very good job of recycling all materials generated. One hundred percent of them were recycling aluminum, cardboard, and office paper. The material recycled least was glass; however, most of the schools and institutions did not generate any glass.

The schools and institutions did an excellent job of providing accessible bins to their students and faculty. Most of the schools had a bin for office paper in every classroom and in every office. Commingled container bins were located in areas where those materials were generated. Only a few schools or institutions could have used improvement in this area.

The recycling bins in the schools and institutions were usually labeled properly as well. But separation and notification were the biggest problem areas in some schools and institutions. Proper separation depends upon students, faculty and employee cooperation. Often, particularly in the high schools, the students would mix garbage in with recyclables or would throw recyclable materials away as garbage. Conversely, many of the elementary schools had good separation because they gave the students responsibility to take the recycling "out". The students saw this as an honor, and recycling was viewed as important and fun.

Every school and institution used fluorescent light bulbs, and all of them were recycling or storing the standard fluorescent bulbs. However, some of the schools had switched to using the new "low-mercury" fluorescent bulbs, and those were being disposed of as

**Items Recycled at Chippewa County Schools and Selected Institutions**

Item	Recycled	Garbage	Burned	Not Used
Aluminum	25			
Tin	24	1		
Glass	21	1		3
Plastic	23	1		1
Cardboard	25			
Newspaper	24			1
Magazines	23			2
Office Paper	25			
Fluorescent Bulbs	24	5 green-tipped		1 storing

garbage due to mis-education. When they were informed that the "low-mercury" bulbs were still harmful to the environment, the schools and institutions agreed to start recycling those as well.

Also, all of the schools and institutions were properly handling any computers or appliances that they needed to get rid of. Some found creative ways to dispose of them, such as passing them on to students for home computers.

Finally, all of the schools and institutions were asked if there was anything containing mercury in the facility. The most common answer was that there were no mercury containing devices in the school to their knowledge.

Chippewa County recycling staff found that recycling has become an accepted lifestyle, although it has lost much of the attention that it has been given in the past. Today's students are being educated without very much emphasis on the importance of recycling and on the how's and why's of recycling. Since schools and institutions are highly visible to the public, a good education program is important.

How are your schools doing? Youth are the foundation of your recycling program. The recycling behaviors they learn today will carry over throughout their lives. Please take some time to assess your schools' recycling and education programs, and give them some assistance if needed.

## More About SHWEC Continued


Stevens Point. SHWEC also provides support to County based Extension Faculty as they conduct local programming dealing with recycling and solid waste issues.

SHWEC staff are also working on a variety of recycling and solid waste projects:

- \* Programs for improving local and regional recycling efficiencies.
- \* Solid Waste Strategic Planning.
- \* Wisconsin Master Composter and Large-Scale Composting Programs.
- \* On-site waste assessments to recycle or divert material from landfills.
- \* Environmental management systems training and implementation.
- \* Green Building and energy conservation practices.
- \* Website to support SHWEC and pollution prevention activities and home to over 200 publications. [www.uwex.edu/shwec/](http://www.uwex.edu/shwec/)

SHWEC also publishes a monthly electronic newsletter containing the latest news about issues that impact the management of solid and hazardous wastes in Wisconsin. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter send an email to [shwec@uwm.edu](mailto:shwec@uwm.edu), or you may place your request by calling Madison office at 608-262-0385.

## How Do You Access SHWEC Assistance?

The most effective way to gain access to SHWEC assistance is to contact your County Extension office. Local faculty can often provide you with the help you are looking for. In cases where more resources are needed the county agent will contact SHWEC staff for further assistance. Please visit the SHWEC website for more information. [www.uwex.edu/shwec/](http://www.uwex.edu/shwec/) 



# Recycling Program a Success at Reddan Soccer Park

*Brad Wolbert, DNR South Central Region*

If you have children that play soccer in Wisconsin—or if you're a player yourself—there's a good chance you've been to a tournament at Reddan Soccer Park in Verona, just west of Madison. Players and families converge on this showcase facility from all over the Upper Midwest every weekend to enjoy "the beautiful game" on its 20-plus fields.

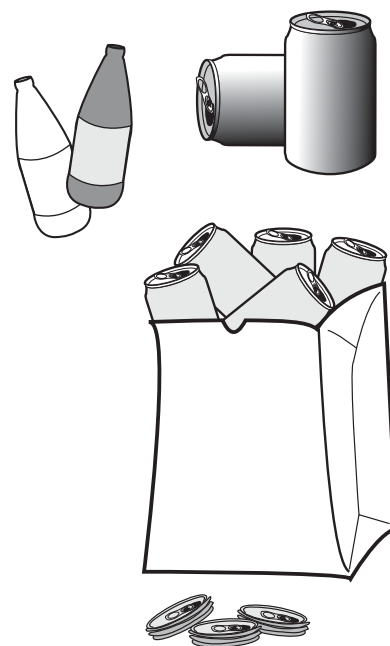
Thousands of thirsty soccer players and spectators mean thousands of empty bottles and cans. Now, thanks to the cooperative efforts of Dane County, the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association (MAYSA), the GrassRoots Recycling Network and the Department of Natural Resources, those bottles and cans are being recycled instead of landfilled.

Dane County, which owns the property, provided start-up funding to purchase specially designed, semi-transparent and lightweight recycling bins. The bins are anchored to the

ground to maintain neatness. Importantly, there are enough bins to locate one near every trash barrel at the park. Both the trash barrels and recycling bins are emptied before they fill up. These simple measures have proved very effective in capturing higher volumes of empty beverage containers and limiting contamination from food and non-recyclables.

Paul Gray, MAYSA's Operations Manager at Reddan, is enthusiastic about the new recycling program. "We have been wanting to improve our recycling program for some time now. It's especially important at a facility like ours because so many of our visitors are young people. In addition to capturing tons of useable material, we can help reinforce a recycling ethic among kids from all over the region."

DNR and Dane County hope to use the Reddan Soccer Park recycling program as a model for other public places. The experience at Reddan



provides further evidence that people eagerly recycle when given a convenient opportunity. To learn more about how Reddan's program might be tailored for your sports venue, festival or event, contact Brad Wolbert at (608) 275-7769. ♻️

## Innovative recycling in Southeast Wisconsin...

*Elizabeth Spaeth-Werner, DNR South East Region*

I recently was able to participate in two wonderful meetings – one at Growing Power on the north side of Milwaukee and the other at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institute in Sheboygan County near Greenbush.

### Growing Power

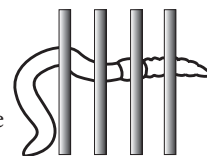
Growing Power acquired the vacant Old English Greenhouse on Silver Spring Drive in Milwaukee. Since its small beginnings, Growing Power has emerged as a fantastic learning and research site for community and university individuals. It is a down-to-earth kind of place which tour guide, Katie Kaluzynski explained, is so people realize the things being done here can be done anywhere. Within a small area, there are examples of composting using vegetable scraps from restaurants and food pantries, vermicomposting (composting with worms) and hydroponics (growing

plants in water instead of soil). The food grown there is available to food pantries, restaurants, and the local community members. Tours are available daily. Growing Power recently hosted the annual conference of the Community Food Security Coalition Oct 17-19. You can find more information about Growing Power and the Community Food Security Coalition by checking out: [www.growingpower.org](http://www.growingpower.org)



### Prison Worms

Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution (KMCI) is a medium security prison located on 480 acres adjacent to the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest. The head warden contacted the DNR for information about food waste composting and how to start a vermicomposting operation similar to one at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution. The compost would be used to enhance the gardens where the inmates grow produce for local food pantries. A meeting to discuss conceptual plans was held on August 31, 2004. Representatives of KMCI, DNR, UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste and WasteCap Wisconsin were present. ♻️





# Climb Theatre: Innovative Approach to Recycling Outreach and Education



Zac Lagen

For over 24 years, Climb has partnered with cities and counties throughout the Upper Midwest to provide plays and classes on the environment to children in grades K-6. Partners select target areas to receive programming, and Climb schedules and presents its plays and classes to schools in that area. Each 40-minute play performed in school gyms reaches up to 350 children at a time, maximizing the fun, effectiveness and affordability of this partnership. In the 2003-2004 school year Climb performed its plays 700 times and taught 5,000 classes at over 600 schools, reaching over 300,000 young people in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, and North and South Dakota.

Climb's environmental plays and its classes (presented in individual classrooms) give students and teachers a new way to understand and commit to environmental protection. Kid focused and parent, teacher, and conservationist approved, Climb brings the terminology and ideas of recycling, wetland conservation, and environmental protection to life through the magic of theatre. Climb inspires and challenges children to respect the environment in school, at home and in their communities.

Climb's dedication to the environment stems from its mission to, **"originate and perform plays, classes and other creative works which inspire and propel young people toward actions that benefit themselves, each other and the community."** Climb's commitment to presenting quality, educational programming that has an impact on the world today and tomorrow is just one of the ways Climb Theatre stands apart from other children's theatres.

## The Plays:

### The Huggertree Me (Grades: K-2)


While Cammie is home sick with the flu, she learns (from a walking, talking deciduous tree) that the earth is not as healthy as it should be. If she and all the kids in the audience and all their parents and teachers don't start taking better care of the earth, it could end up very sick indeed. Under the Huggertree's entertaining but effective tutelage, Cammie learns about resource conservation and the Three R's of waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

### Flashback (Grades: 3-6)

The future in which Dax lives is not a pleasant place. Tired of getting oxygen through mechanical devices and sick of the cold barren landscape, Dax travels from the future to our present where he discovers that people could have preserved the environment by conserving resources and by reducing, reusing and recycling their garbage. But they didn't. People just didn't seem to think their individual efforts would have an effect. Desperate to change his sparse world (*our future world*), Dax attempts to convince us to change our wasteful ways.

### Trash! (Grades: 3-6)

Garbage is of no concern whatever to all-American average kid, James Gillwhistle, until the day he carries the family trash to the curb and it walks back with him AND continues to follow him throughout his daily activities. Desperate to rid himself of his comic but stinky companion, James and the audience learn about waste reuse, reduction and recycling.

For more information on Climb and to view samples of their plays and classes, check out their website at [www.climb.org](http://www.climb.org) or call 651-453-9275/1-800-767-9660, email at [mail@climb.org](mailto:mail@climb.org). 

## Recycling Tips

**"If everyone in Wisconsin recycled one more aluminum can and two more soda or water bottles a week, we would recycle an additional 4500 tons of aluminum and 14,000 tons of plastic worth approximately \$8,700,000. When you're away from home, please recycle your soda cans and water bottles or bring them home to recycle."**



*Recycling News Editor:*

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*Articles and descriptions of programs/activities by non-DNR staff included in this newsletter are for informational purposes only and should not be construed as DNR endorsements of other organizations' opinions or programs.*

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# DNR Regional Recycling Contacts as of 10/04

Here is an updated list of DNR staff contacts for waste reduction and recycling along with the counties for which they are responsible. Please feel free to call with questions or to introduce yourself.

Regional Recycling Contact	Region Address	Counties Served
<b>Marcy McGrath - 920/492-5593</b> e-mail marcy.mcgrath@dnr.state.wi.us fax 920/492-5859	Northeast Region PO Box 10488 Green Bay WI 54307-0448	Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, Waupaca
<b>Carol Schmidt - 920/424-3061</b> e-mail carol.schmidt@dnr.state.wi.us fax 920-424-4404	Northeast Region Oshkosh Service Center 625 E. County Rd. Y Suite 700 Oshkosh, WI 54901-9731	Calumet, Outagamie, Winnebago
<b>Dave Misterek - 920/424-2104</b> david.misterek@dnr.state.wi.us 920-424-4404	Northeast Region Oshkosh Service Center 625 E. County Rd. Y Suite 700 Oshkosh, WI 54901-9731	Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara
<b>Paul Wiegner - 715/839-5171</b> e-mail paul.wiegner@dnr.state.wi.us fax 715/839-6076	West Central Region P.O. Box 4001 1300 Clairemont Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701	Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon
<b>Deb Pingel - 715/359-4531</b> e-mail deb.pingel@dnr.state.wi.us fax 715/355-5253	West Central Region 5301 Rib Mountain Dr. Wausau, WI 54401	Adams, Marathon, Portage, Wood
<b>Jessica Maloney - 608/275-3298</b> e-mail jessica.maloney@dnr.state.wi.us fax 608/275-3338	South Central Region 3911 Fish Hatchery Road Fitchburg, WI 53711	Dane, Iowa
<b>Cynthia K. English - 608/275-3240</b> e-mail cynthia.english@dnr.state.wi.us fax 608/275-3338	South Central Region 3911 Fish Hatchery Road Fitchburg, WI 53711	Grant, Green, Lafayette, Richland, Rock
<b>Sherry Otto - 715/365-8982</b> e-mail sheryl.otto@dnr.state.wi.us fax 715/365-8932	Northern Region 107 Sutliff Ave Rhineland, WI 54501	Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Taylor, Vilas
<b>Bob Germer - 715/635-4060</b> e-mail robert.germer@dnr.state.wi.us fax 715/635-4105	Northern Region 810 W. Maple St Spooner, WI 54801	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn
<b>Barb Palecek - 920/387-7870</b> e-mail barbara.palecek@dnr.state.wi.us Fax 920/387-7888	South Central Region N7725 Hwy 28 Horicon, WI 53032	Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, Sauk
<b>Liz Spaeth-Werner - 414/263-8677</b> e-mail elizabeth.spaeth-werner@dnr.state.wi.us fax 414-263-8483	Southeast Region P.O. Box 12436 Milwaukee, WI 53212	Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington
<b>Nancy Gloe - 414/263-8369</b> e-mail nancy.gloe@dnr.state.wi.us	Southeast Region 2300 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, Waukesha



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